

Bush in CIA in '63? Veep says, 'No'

The Washington Post
The New York Times
The Washington Times
The Wall Street Journal
The Christian Science Monitor
New York Daily News
USA Today
The Chicago Tribune

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The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Bush may have worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in 1963, more than a decade before becoming its director, according to a magazine article that cites an FBI memo.

Bush denied the report through a spokesman.

The Nation magazine, in its current issue, quotes a Federal Bureau of Investigation memo of Nov. 29, 1963, from then-Director J. Edgar Hoover to the State Department on the subject of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In the memo, according to the magazine, Hoover stated that the bureau had briefed "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" on the reaction of Cuban exiles in Miami to the assassination.

The magazine article, written by Joseph McBride, also quoted an unidentified source "with close connections to the intelligence community" as saying Bush "started working for the agency in 1960 or 1961, using his oil business as a cover for clandestine activities."

Bush denies

Stephen Bush, spokesman for the vice president, said,

"There's nothing to this."

Hart said he had talked to Bush about the story, and that Bush denied any involvement with the CIA prior to being named director by President Gerald Ford in 1975.

"He was an oilman in the early 1960s, and in 1963 he was running for the Senate," Hart said. Asked if perhaps another "George Bush" might have been the one who worked for the CIA, Hart said, "I don't want to speculate, but the story is not correct."

Bill Devine, a CIA spokesman, citing agency policy, declined to comment on the

possibility that Bush or someone else with that name worked for the agency in the 1960s.

Freedom of Information

The magazine said Hoover's memo was recently discovered among 98,755 pages of FBI documents released in 1977 and 1978 in connection with Freedom of Information Act suits.

Hoover's memo relays concerns of an FBI informant in Miami that anti-Castro groups might capitalize on the confusion after the assassination to undertake an unauthorized raid against Cuba, the magazine said.

"The substance of the foregoing information was orally furnished to Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency," Hoover is quoted as saying.